

Wayne L. Kelly
7700 Porcher Drive, #2306
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572-4324
Email kellykim@nuri.net

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Dr. Jane E. Henney
Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20857

BAN ANTIBIOTICS AS LIVESTOCK GROWTH PROMOTERS

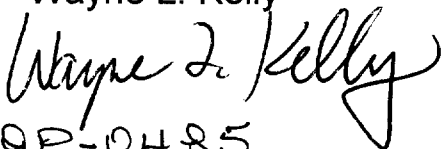
Dear Dr. Henney:

Please immediately ban the use of antibiotics to promote livestock growth when those antibiotics are used to treat humans. Jeopardizing the effectiveness of antibiotics essential for public health protection is too high a price to pay to fatten up animals for slaughter and consumption. Patients with antibiotic resistant infections are dying. The Institute of Medicine has estimated that the annual cost of treating antibiotic resistant in the U.S. alone is 30 billion dollars.

The World Health Organization called for a ban on using antibiotics to fatten livestock in 1997. Since then, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association and other prominent health organizations have taken similar positions expressing great concern about the massive use of antibiotics to increase livestock weight in light of the growing evidence of antibiotic resistance. The United States should follow the example of the European Union which heeded these concerns last year when it banned adding human used antibiotics to animal feed. Let's hope that antibiotic resistance does not grow into a public health crisis before the United States takes effective action to regulate the unnecessary use of these drugs in animal feed.

Sincerely,

Wayne L. Kelly



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WAYNE L. KELLY
ARMP SFO DIST 1
PSC 303 BOX 5
APO AP 96204



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Commissioner
Food & Drug Adminis
5600 Fishers Lane, Ro
Rockville, MD 20857